## REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending. Claim 8 has been amended. No new matter is presented.
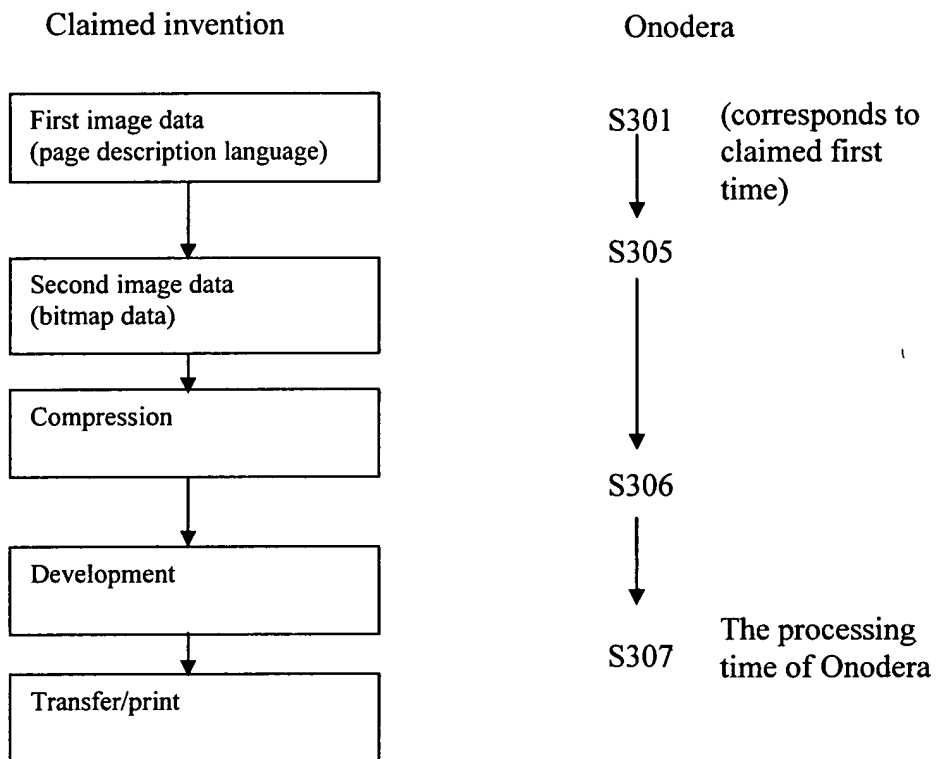
Claims 8-13 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Onodera, U.S. Patent 6,181,435. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 8 has been amended to clarify that the second image data is a bitmap data. Thus, according to claim 8, the first image data (which is in a printer language) is developed into second image data (which is bitmap data) and then the second image data (bitmap data) is printed. The time it takes to develop the printer language data into the bitmap data is compared to the time it takes to print the bitmap data, and if the former time is less than the latter time, the printer language data is stored.

In contrast, Onodera discloses comparing the time required for developing compressed bitmap data (step S307), but not the time required for developing the printer language data. This is evidenced in col. 6, lines 44-46, where Onodera states "the predicted expansion time is compared with the time necessary for transferring band raster data by the printing I/F unit 15."

In the Advisory Action, at pg. 2, the Examiner agrees that the page description language of Onodera corresponds to the claimed first image data, but states that it is unclear why the recited step of developing the first image data necessarily corresponds to the step of sending this data from a host computer to a printer (step S301 of Onodera) and not to the step within the printer of processing this data into a form in which it will be sent to the printing output elements (step S307).

For the purpose of explanation, the following comparison between the claimed method and the method described by Onodera is illustrated below:

Claimed invention                                    Onodera

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┌─────────────────────────────┐
│ First image data            │      S301    (corresponds to
│ (page description language)  │             claimed first
└─────────────────────────────┘             time)
              │
              ▼                             S305
┌─────────────────────────────┐
│ Second image data           │
│ (bitmap data)               │
└─────────────────────────────┘
              │
              ▼                             S306
┌─────────────────────────────┐
│ Compression                 │
└─────────────────────────────┘
              │
              ▼                             S307    The processing
┌─────────────────────────────┐                    time of Onodera
│ Development                 │
└─────────────────────────────┘
              │
              ▼
┌─────────────────────────────┐
│ Transfer/print              │
└─────────────────────────────┘
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The claimed first time or the time required for developing the print language data to obtain the bitmap data corresponds to processing time from Step 301 (page description language) to Step 305 (wherein the term, "rasterize coded" is mentioned) in Fig. 3 of Onodera. In addition, it is obvious to persons skilled in the art that the term, "rasterize coded" means the development for obtaining bitmap data. Thus, it is clear that the above processing in Onodera takes place before the process for developing the compressed bitmap data as used for comparison, and is another process step. Therefore, the two process steps are not the same.

As stated above, the first time according to the present invention and the time required for the development according to Onodera are entirely different.

In addition to the above-described difference between the claimed invention and the process taught by Onodera, another difference lies in the data to be stored dependent on the result of the time comparison.

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Claim 8 recites "storing the first image data if the first time is shorter than the second time based on the result of said comparison." Thus, if it is determined that the first time is short than the second time, the print language data is stored. Onodera states, at col. 6, lines 50-53, "[I]f it is determined that the memory capacity is sufficient, the process proceeds to step S312, where the band raster data mapped in the band memory is compressed and stored in the memory." Thus, Onodera discloses storing compressed raster image data (compressed bitmap data) dependent on the results of a comparison (although, as stated above, this comparison is not the same as the claimed comparison). Onodera fails to teach or suggest "storing the first image data if the first time is shorter than the second time based on the result of said comparison." Thus, the features of claim 8 are not disclosed or suggested by Onodera.
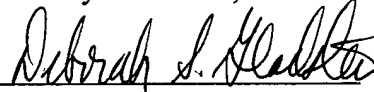
Claims 10 and 13 recite substantially the same features as recited in claim 8, and are allowable for the same reasons. Claims 9, 11 and 12 are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies. Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

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In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 325772014000.

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Respectfully submitted,

By _Deborah S. Gladstein_
Deborah S. Gladstein
Registration No.: 43,636
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
2000 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 778-1646